

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Original) Chewing gum comprising at least two different biodegradable polymers.
2. (Original) Chewing gum according to claim 1,
wherein the at least two different polymers are hydrophilic.
3. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
wherein the difference in molecular weight between the at least two different polymers is
at least 1000 g/mol M_n .
4. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—3~~,
wherein the difference in molecular weight between the at least two different polymers is
at least 50000 g/mol M_n .
5. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—4~~,
wherein at least one of said at least two different biodegradable polymers comprises a
biodegradable elastomer and

at least one of said at least two different biodegradable polymers comprises a
biodegradable plasticizer, said biodegradable plasticizer comprising at least one
biodegradable polymer.
6. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 5 ~~any of the claims 1—5~~,
wherein the molecular weight of said biodegradable plasticizer is in the range of 500 -
~~19.000~~ 19,000 g/mol, ~~preferably within the range of 1.500—9.000 g/mol M_n .~~

7. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—3~~, wherein said at least two different biodegradable polymers have a different glass transition temperature Tg.
8. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 5 ~~any of the claims 1—7~~, wherein said at least two different biodegradable polymers have a different glass transition temperature Tg.
9. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—8~~, wherein at least one of the ~~applied~~ biodegradable polymers, ~~preferably a plasticizer~~, has a glass transition of at least +1°C.
10. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—9~~, wherein at least one of the ~~applied~~ biodegradable polymers, ~~preferably a plasticizer~~, has a glass transition of at least +10°C.
11. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—10~~, wherein at least one of the ~~applied~~ biodegradable polymers, ~~preferably a plasticizer~~, has a glass transition of at least +20°C.
12. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—11~~, wherein at least one of the ~~applied~~ biodegradable polymers comprises a biodegradable elastomer.
13. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 12 ~~any of the claims 1—12~~, wherein the molecular weight of said biodegradable elastomer is in the range of 10000 - 1000000 g/mol Mn, ~~preferably within the range of 30000—250000 g/mol Mn~~.

14. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—13~~, wherein at least one of the at least two different biodegradable polymers has a glass transition temperature of less than 0 °C.

15. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—14~~, wherein at least one of the at least two different biodegradable polymers has a glass transition temperature of less than -30°C, ~~preferably less than -50°C~~.

16. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—15~~, wherein the resulting chewing gum has at least two different glass transitions temperatures T_g.

17. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1—16~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises
at least one biodegradable elastomer having a glass transition temperature T_g below 0°C
and
at least one biodegradable plasticizer having a glass transition temperature T_g exceeding 0°C.

18. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 17 ~~any of the claims 1—17~~, wherein the at least one plasticizer comprises ~~at a~~ biodegradable polymer obtained by polymerization of one or more cyclic esters.

19. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 17 ~~any of the claims 1—18~~, wherein the at least one elastomer comprises a biodegradable polymer obtained by polymerization of one or more cyclic esters.

20. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 17 ~~any of the claims 1—19~~, wherein the at least one elastomer comprises edible polyesters.

21. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 17 ~~any of the claims 1—20~~, wherein the at least one elastomer comprises edible polyesters or polyhydroxyalkanoates.

22. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1–21~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises
at least one biodegradable elastomer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum,
at least one biodegradable plasticizer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum and
at least one chewing gum ingredient chosen from the groups consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients and fillers in the amount of about 2 to about 80% wt of the chewing gum.

23. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 22~~, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least 25% of the chewing gum polymers, ~~preferably at least 50%~~.

24. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 23~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprise at least 25%, ~~preferably at least 50%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

25. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 24~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprise at least 80%, ~~preferably at least 90%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

26. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 25~~, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers.

27. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 26~~, wherein the chewing gum is free of non-biodegradable polymers.

28. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 22 ~~any of the claims 1-27~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise flavoring agents.

29. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 28 ~~any of the claims 1-28~~, wherein said flavoring agents comprise natural and synthetic flavorings in the form of natural vegetable components, essential oils, essences, extracts, powders, including acids ~~and~~ or other substances capable of affecting the taste profile.

30. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 28 ~~any of the claims 1-29~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in the amount of 0.01 to about 30 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum.

31. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 28 ~~any of the claims 1-30~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in the amount of 0.2 to about 4 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum.

32. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 28 ~~any of the claims 1-31~~, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water soluble ingredients.

33. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 32 ~~any of the claims 1-32~~, wherein said water soluble flavoring agent comprises acids.

34. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 28 ~~any of the claims 1-33~~, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water insoluble ingredients.

35. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 22 ~~any of the claims 1-34~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise sweeteners.

36. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 35 ~~any of the claims 1-35~~, wherein said sweetener comprises bulk sweeteners.

37. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 36 ~~any of the claims 1-36~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises bulk sweeteners in the amount of about 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 20 to about 80% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

38. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 35 ~~any of the claims 1-37~~, wherein said sweetener comprises high intensity sweeteners.

39. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 38 ~~any of the claims 1-38~~, wherein the high intensity sweeteners comprise sucralose, aspartame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, sterioside, alone or in combination.

40. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 38 ~~any of the claims 1-39~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises high intensity sweeteners in the amount of about 0 to about 1% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0.05 to about 0.5 % by weight of the chewing gum.~~

41. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-40~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one softener.

42. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 41 ~~any of the claims 1-41~~, wherein the at least one softener comprises tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lecithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids, ~~such as~~ stearic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, and linoleic acids, waxes, ~~PGE~~ polyglycol esters, ~~or and~~ mixtures thereof.

43. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 41 ~~any of the claims 1-42~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises softeners in the amount of about 0 to about 18% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0 to about 12 % by weight of the chewing gum.~~

44. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 22 ~~any of the claims 1-43~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise active ingredients.

45. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 44 ~~any of the claims 1-44~~, said active ingredients being selected from the group consisting of: Acetaminophen, ~~Acetylsalicylsyre~~ Acetylsalicylic acid, Buprenorphine, Bromhexin, Celcoxib, Codeine, Diphenhydramin, Diclofenac, Etoricoxib, Ibuprofen, Indometacin, Ketoprofen, Lumiracoxib, Morphine, Naproxen, Oxycodon, Parecoxib, Piroxicam, ~~Pseudoefedrin~~, Rofecoxib, Tenoxicam, Tramadol, Valdecoxib, Calciumcarbonat, Magaldrate, Disulfiram, Bupropion, Nicotine, Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Clotrimazole, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Granisetron, Ondansetron, Prometazin, Tropisetron, Brompheniramine, Ceterizin, Ieco-Ceterizin, Chlorcyclizine, Chlorpheniramin, Chlorpheniramin, Difenhydramine, Doxylamine, Fenofenadin, Guaifenesin, Loratidin, des-Loratidin, Phenyltoloxamine, Promethazin, Pyridamine, Terfenadin, Troxerutin, Methyldopa, Methylphenidate, Benzalcon. Chloride, Benzeth. Chloride, Cetylpyrid. Chloride, Chlorhexidine, Ecabet-sodium, Haloperidol, Allopurinol, Colchicine, Theophylline, Propanolol, Prednisolone, Prednisone, Fluoride, Urea, Miconazole, Actot, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Metformin, Miglitol, Repaglinide, Rosiglitazone, Apomorfin, Cialis, Sildenafil, Vardenafil, Diphenoxylate, Simethicone, Cimetidine, Famotidine, Ranitidine, Ratinidine, cetrizin, Loratadine, Aspirin, Benzocaine, Dextrometorphan, Ephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine, Cisapride, Domperidone, Metoclopramide, Acyclovir, Dioctylsulfosucc., Phenolphthalein, Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Ergotamine, Migea, Naratriptan, Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan, Aluminium salts, Calcium salts, Ferro salts, Silver salts, Zinc-salte, Amphotericin B, Chlorhexidine, Miconazole, Triamcinolonacetamid, Melatonine, Phenobarbital, Caffeine, Benzodiazepiner, Hydroxyzine, Meprobamate, Phenothiazine, Buclizine, Brometazine, Cinnarizine, Cyclizine, Difenhydramine, Dimenhydrinate, Buflomedil, Amphetamine, Caffeine, Ephedrine, Orlistat, Phenylephedrine, Phenylpropanolamin, Pseudoephedrine, Sibutramin, Ketoconazole, Nitroglycerin, Nystatin, Progesterone, Testosterone, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Pilocarpin, Aluminiumaminoacetat, Cimetidine, Esomeprazole, Famotidine, Lansoprazole, Magnesiumoxide, Nizatide and/or Ratinidine or derivates and mixtures thereof.

46. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 22 ~~any of the claims 1-45~~, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers.

47. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-46~~, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a polymer obtained by polymerization of one or more cyclic esters wherein the ~~at least two or more~~ cyclic esters are selected from the groups consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof.

48. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 47 ~~any of the claims 1-47~~, wherein lactone monomers are chosen from the group consisting of ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -butyrolactone, and β -propiolactone, and mixtures thereof; wherein the lactone is optionally. ~~It also includes ϵ -caprolactones, δ -valerolactones, γ -butyrolactones, or β -propiolactones that have been~~ substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atoms along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom.

49. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 47 ~~any of the claims 1-48~~, wherein the carbonate monomer is selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4,6-dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, ~~and~~ 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

50. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 47 ~~any of the claims 1-49~~, wherein cyclic ester polymers and their copolymers resulting from the polymerization of cyclic ester monomers ~~include, but are not limited to:~~ are selected from the group consisting of poly (L-lactide) ; poly (D-lactide) ; poly (D, L-lactide) ; poly (mesolactide) ; poly (glycolide) ; poly (trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (L lactide-co-D, L-lactide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-meso-lactide) ; poly (L-lactide co-glycolide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (L-lactide co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-meso-lactide) ; poly (D, L lactide-co-glycolide) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (meso-lactide-co glycolide) ; poly (meso-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (meso lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (glycolide-cotrimethylenecarbonate) ; and poly (glycolide-co-epsilon-caprolactone).

51. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-50~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler.

52. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 51 ~~any of the claims 1-51~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler in an amount of about 0 to about 50% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 10 to about 40 % by weight of the chewing gum.~~

53. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-52~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one coloring agent.

54. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-53~~, wherein the chewing gum is coated with an outer coating.

55. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 54 ~~any of the claims 1-54~~, wherein the outer coating is a hard coating.

56. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 55 ~~any of the claims 1-55~~, wherein the hard coating is a coating selected from the group consisting of a sugar coating, ~~and~~ a sugarless coating, and a combination thereof.

57. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 55 ~~any of the claims 1-56~~, wherein the hard coating comprises 50 to 100% by weight of a polyol selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, maltitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, lactitol and isomalt.

58. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 54 ~~any of the claims 1-57~~, wherein the outer coating is an edible film comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of an edible film-forming agent and a wax.

59. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 58 ~~any of the claims 1-58~~, wherein the film-forming agent is selected from the group consisting of a cellulose derivative, a modified starch, a dextrin, gelatine, shellac, gum arabic, zein, a vegetable gum, a synthetic polymer and any combination thereof.

60. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 54 ~~any of the claims 1-59~~, wherein the outer coating comprises at least one additive component selected from the group consisting of a binding agent, a moisture absorbing component, a film forming agent, a dispersing agent, an antisticking component, a bulking agent, a flavouring agent, a coloring agent, a pharmaceutically or cosmetically active component, a lipid component, a wax component, a sugar, an acid and an agent capable of accelerating the after-chewing degradation of the degradable polymer.

61. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 54 ~~any of the claims 1-60~~, wherein the outer coating is a soft coating.

62. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 61 ~~any of the claims 1-61~~, wherein the soft coating comprises a sugar free coating agent.

63. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-62~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises conventional chewing gum polymers or resins.

64. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-63~~, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least 5% of the chewing gum polymers.

65. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-64~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprise at least 25%, ~~preferably at least 50%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

66. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-65~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprise at least 80%, ~~preferably at least 90%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

67. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 comprising Gum gum base comprising at least two different biodegradable polymers according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-65~~.